

p to 50% of our residential water is used outside the house. A poorly maintained or installed irrigation system can waste up to fifty percent of that water due to inefficient practices, poor components, evaporation and runoff.

Maintaining and installing water efficient irrigation systems is one of the most effective ways to reduce wasted drinking water, reduce run-off, sediments and optimize plant health by applying the correct amount of water.

Here's the top ten tips to save our precious drinking water and reduce your water bill.

- 1. Adjust irrigation controller run times seasonally with less time during rainy season.
- 2. Schedule night or early morning runtimes for established plantings (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.)

- Conduct a monthly inspection to verify system operation and correct deficiencies.
- 4. Mulch plantings and refresh as necessary to maintain a minimum of 2 inches.
- 5. Use water conserving irrigation components such as drip lines for shrubs and trees, and low-flow, wind-resistant sprinkler nozzles.
- 6. Install rain interrupt switch for timer-

- controlled sprinkler systems.
- 7. Install a climate based irrigation controller.
- 8. Aerate lawns when compaction occurs.
- 9. Water to saturate the root zone. Where run off or ponding occurs, water in 2-3 shorter cycles.
- 10. Hire a certified landscape professional.

